

FAILURE ISOLATION IN A DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING SYSTEM
EMPLOYING RELATIVE LOCATION INFORMATION

ABSTRACT

Failure isolation in a distributed processing system of
5 processor nodes coupled by a multi-drop bus network. The
processor nodes have information of relative locations of the
processor nodes on the network, and have an associated local
error indicator, such as a character display. Each node
independently tests access to other nodes on the network, and
10 upon detecting a failure to access one or more nodes, determines,
from the relative locations, the node having failed access which
is closest. The failure detecting processor posts, at its
associated local error indicator, an identifier of the closest
failed access node. A user may inspect the local error
15 indicators and thereby isolate the detected failure.